

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination of this application and respectfully request the entry of the amendments indicated hereinabove.

Claims 1-9 and 11-25 are pending. Of the pending claim set, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16-18 and 23-25 are rejected, Claims 3 and 13 are objected to, and Claims 19-22 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 5 and 15 are amended hereinabove in response to the 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph and is supported in the Specification as originally filed (i.e. page 14 lines 2-3). Claim 8 is cancelled.

Claim 1 positively recites powering down, with a power switch, the circuitry for operating the row of memory cells preceding the intervention circuit. These advantageously claimed features are not taught or suggested by the patents granted to McLaury or Inaba; either alone or in combination.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion in the Office Action (page 4) that McLaury teaches a power switch in FIG. 3 with circuit 25A and signal TDI* generated by level transistor 50. The Applicants submit that the level transistor 50 of FIG. 3 is not a power switch. Moreover, the Applicants submit

that the signal TDI* generated by the level transistor 50 is just the input signal of an inverter (25A) and it cannot power down the driver circuit 25A. (See FIGS. 3-4 and also column 4 lines 7-10 and 47-51.)

In addition to McLaury, Inaba does not teach powering down, with a power switch, the circuitry for operating the row of memory cells preceding the intervention circuit (column 5 lines 30-45, FIGS. 2-4). Therefore, the combination of McLaury and Inaba does not teach powering down, with a power switch, the circuitry for operating the row of memory cells preceding the intervention circuit, as advantageously claimed.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claim 1 and respectfully assert that Claim 1 is patentable over the patents granted to McLaury and Inaba. Furthermore, Claims 2-7, 9 and 23 are allowable for depending on allowable independent Claim 1 and, in combination, including limitations not taught or described in the references of record.

Claim 11 positively recites a power switch having a control signal input. These advantageously claimed features are not taught or suggested by the patents granted to McLaury or Inaba; either alone or in combination.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion in the Office Action (page 5) that McLaury teaches a power switch. The Applicants submit that inverter 55 is not a power switch. Rather, inverter 55 drives PHI between V_{cc}/V_{ccp} and 0V. When PHI is at 0V, the driver circuit 25A is not powered down but is still powered because the other supply of the driver circuit 25A is at the negative voltage V_{neg} (FIGS. 3-4, column 4 lines 33-46)

In addition, the level transistor 50 of FIG. 3 is not a power switch. Moreover, the Applicants submit that the signal TDI* generated by the level transistor 50 is just the input signal of an inverter (25A) and it cannot power down the driver circuit 25A. (See FIGS. 3-4 and also column 4 lines 7-10 and 47-51.)

In addition to McLaury, Inaba does not teach a power switch having a control signal input (column 5 lines 30-45, FIGS. 2-4). Therefore, the combination of McLaury and Inaba does not teach a power switch having a control signal input, as advantageously claimed.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claim 11 and respectfully assert that Claim 11 is patentable over the patents granted to McLaury and Inaba. Furthermore, Claims 12-18 and 24-25 are allowable for depending on allowable independent Claim 11 and, in combination, including limitations not taught or described in the references of record.

For the reasons stated above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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